

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3739

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA ANNOUNCES INVESTIGATION OF AAA

1. SOCAIL WELFARE MINISTER LOPEZ REGA STATED ON MAY 28 THAT AT THE BEHEST OF MRS. PERON THE GOA HAD BEGUN A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE AAA RIGHTWING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. LOPEZ REGA MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT A MEETING WITH A GROUP OF ACTORS WHO HAD COME TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN REGARDING AAA THREATS AGAINST PEOPLE IN SHOW BUSINESS. LOPEZ REGA ADDED THAT THE GOA DOESN'T ACCEPT ANY TYPE OF VIOLENCE, BE IT FROM THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT.

2. IN A MAY 26 MEETING WITH REPORTERS, INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS. HE STATED THAT THE GOA CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DOESN'T PROTECT ANY TYPE OF CRIME. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE NEWS MEDIA SHOULD COLLABORATE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SUBVERSION AND THAT STORIES WHICH CAST DOUBT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION ONLY AIDED SUBVERSION. ROCAMORA IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SENATE LEADERS ON JUNE 3 TO DISCUSS VIOLENCE, SUBVERSION AND THE REQUEST BY THE UCR TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. COMMENT. THE STATEMENTS BY ROCAMORA AND LOPEZ REGA DO INDICATE SOME SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM ON THE PART OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND OTHERS WHO POINT OUT THAT IT
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HAS BEEN AT LEAST 550 DAYS SINCE THE AAA FIRST APPEARED

AND NOT ONE ARREST HAS BEEN MADE. PREVIOUSLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS CRITICIZED ONLY LEFTWING TERRORISM AND IGNORED THE RIGHT.

WHETHER ANY TANGIBLE RESULTS COME FROM THIS NEW-FOUND CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE GOA WIL REMAIN TO BE SEEN. SINCE CONVENTIONAL WIDOM IN BUENOS AIRES CLOSELY LINKS LOPEZ REGA WITH THE AAA, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THIS GROUP IS UNDER INVESTIGATION WILL BE RECEIVED WITH NO SMALL AMOUNT OF SKEPTICISM. CYNICAL OR NOT, HOWEVER, HIS STATEMENTS ARE NOT WITHOUT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, FOR THEY DO SUGGEST THAT PUBLIC DISTASTE FOR THE AAA HAS REACHED SUCH A POINT THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST BEGIN TO TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT. MONTLLOR

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